

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 /024 W

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R 120105Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2500

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIRPORT USER CHARGES

REF: MELBOURNE 1287

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE LETTER RECEIVED ON
DECEMBER 12 IN RESPONSE TO CONGEN'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 7
REGARDING AVIATION USER CHARGES:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. BROWN: I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 7
NOVEMBER REGARDING AVIATION USER CHARGES, AND THE REQUEST
BY YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT THE INCREASE IN AUSTRALIAN CHARGES,
PLANNED TO TO INTO EFFECT ON 1 DECEMBER, BE POSTPONED FOR
SIXTY DAYS.

I SHOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES
AUTHORITIES' PROPOSAL HAS BEEN GIVEN CLOSE CONSIDERATION.
AS WAS INDICATED, HOWEVER, TO THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES
DURING THE DISCUSSIONS IN MONTREAL IN OCTOBER, WHEN THE
POSSIBILITY OF DEFERMENT OF THE CHARGES WAS MENTIONED BY
THEM, VERY SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS EXIST FOR THE GOVERNMENT
IN ACCEPTING SUCH A PROPOSAL. THERE ARE BOTH LEGAL AND
POLICY OBSTACLES WHICH MAKE IT IMPRACTICABLE TO MEET THE
UNITED STATES REQUEST.

THE MINISTER, TO WHOM THE MATTER WAS REFERRED FOR
DECISION, DECIDED THAT THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL COULD
NOT BE ACCEPTED. HE WAS VERY MUCH INFLUENCED, NOT ONLY
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BY LEGAL AND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN ISOLATING THE

INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS' CONTRIBUTION, BUT ALSO BY THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S COST RECOVERY POLICY MUST BE PURSUED TO ACHIEVE AN ESSENTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE RECOVERY RATE THIS YEAR.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE MINISTER FELT THE GOVERNMENT MUST PROCEED WITH LEGISLATION INCREASING THE CHARGES, AND PARLIAMENT HAS NOW PASSED THE NECESSARY MEASURE.

MAY I SAY IN CONCLUSION THAT THE AUSTRALIA AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INTERESTED TO RECEIVE THIS WEEK THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S ANALYSIS OF DATA PRESENTED DURING THE MONTREAL TALKS. I AM GLAD TO RECIPROCATATE THE COMMENT IN MR. BINDER'S LETTER OF 7 NOVEMBER REGARDING THE FRANKNESS AND OPENNESS OF THE MONTREAL DISCUSSIONS. THE PROBLEMS ON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN EXCHANGING IDEAS ARE COMPLEX BUT, IF THE SPIRIT OF ENQUIRY THAT WAS EVIDENT IN THE MONTREAL TALKS IS PRESERVED, AS I AM SURE IT WILL BE, THAT APPROACH AT THE VERY LEAST SHOULD ENABLE EACH OF US TO HAVE A MUCH CLEARER APPRECIATION OF THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE OTHER PARTY. STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT'S ANALYSIS WILL NOW BE PROCEEDING. YOURS SINCERELY,
J.H. HARPER, ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY, AIR GRANSPORT GROUP. UNQUOTE.
BRAND

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Message Attributes

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